

DISEASE, POLLUTION AND CONTAMINANTS

A WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS
MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR
PUGET SOUND KILLER WHALES

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Seattle Aquarium



Introduction

- Pollution and related effects dominated the majority of public comments received on the proposed rule to designate the Southern Resident stock as depleted.
- At the May 31 kickoff meeting NOAA Fisheries highlighted some of the pollution issues identified as potential factors affecting the status of killer whales.



Pollution/Contaminants

– Current Condition

- Persistent organochlorine (OC) toxins are known to bio-accumulate through the food chain.
- Metallic compounds and pesticides enter Puget Sound via freshwater streams and storm water runoff.
- Chronic oil contamination and catastrophic oil spills degrade habitats.



Ideas for Improving the Current Condition

- Kickoff participants suggested measures to improve the current condition.
- Invited participants have broad representation and include agencies that have regulatory roles in the protection of habitats or species from human caused contamination.



Take Action

- In addition to research, participants encouraged funding for action that could be implemented now.
- MMPA requires the Conservation Plans contain site specific management actions and cost estimates for implementation.



Framing the Discussion

- Presenters will give information from various perspectives.
- Agency/Organization representatives can provide links to ongoing programs.
- Workgroups develop strategy statements.
- Group discussion of strategy statements to explore feasibility, identify implementing agencies or identify short term projects to implement now.



Things to Consider

- Participants identified a number of areas to explore.
- Consider the current condition and what we know.
- Develop ideas that foster community ownership of the outcome.
- Document questions or data gaps, but don't try to solve them.



Goals

- Obtain management action ideas for consideration in the Conservation Plan and identify action agencies to assist in developing projects and cost estimates.
- Identify initiatives for improving the current condition that will create synergistic partnerships and promote community ownership of outcomes.

